UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.5/1995/L.7
19 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-fourth session
10-20 April 1995
Agenda item 6 (b)

# PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

## Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

## Proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1996-1997

The Commission for Social Development,

Having considered the proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1996-1997, 1/

1. Decides to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the following views and comments made during the debate in the Commission, annexed hereto;

2. Requests the Secretariat to make these comments available to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in the most appropriate manner, at its thirty-fifth session, in May 1995.

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1/ E/CN.5/1995/L.4.

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Annex

VIEWS AND COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

1. It was noted that the proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1996-1997 was of a traditional nature and format. It should be possible to be more innovative, while remaining within the framework of the current medium-term plan.

2. The relationship between the programme of work and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 2/ was rather weak. Of the eight subprogrammes included in programmes 25 (Global social issues and policies) and 26 (Social integration), only three had outputs specifically referring to the Summit. These were subprogramme 1 of programme 25 (Analysis of emerging social issues): report to the Commission for Social Development on global trends and emerging issues in subject areas considered by the Summit; subprogramme 4 of programme 25 (Strategies for poverty eradication): report to the Commission on the implementation of the recommendations of the Summit and the achievements of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty; and subprogramme 4 of programme 26 (Social institutions and development): report to the Commission and to the General Assembly on recommendations of the Summit for social integration and policy options for strengthening social institutions. The reasons for the lack of reference to the outcome of the Summit in the other subprogrammes were unclear.

3. The question of the need to shape the work programme in the light of the objectives and policy recommendations of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action was relevant not only for the subprogrammes on global social issues, but also for the subprogrammes on the situation of specific groups. The subprogrammes on youth policies and programmes, ageing policies and programmes and disability policies and programmes should also take into account the decisions made at the Summit.

4. It was noted that one of the three core issues considered by the Summit - employment - appeared to be totally absent from the proposed work programme.

5. The placement of the subprogramme on families in the developing process in programme 25 (Global social issues and policies) rather than in programme 26 (Social integration) was questioned.

6. The proposed programme of work included four ad hoc expert groups: one in subprogramme 2 of programme 25 (Social policy design, planning and coordination) - ad hoc expert group on the integration of social objectives in policy-making and implementation; one in subprogramme 4 of programme 25

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2/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

(Strategies for poverty eradication) - ad hoc expert group in 1996 on poverty eradication strategies and use of quantitative targets in national and international strategies; one in subprogramme 1 of programme 26 (Youth policies and programmes) - ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work: one session of the youth forum in 1996; and one in subprogramme 4 of programme 26 (Social institutions and development) - expert group on the contribution of cooperatives and farmers' organizations to the achievements of the goals of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. The mandate, rationale, modalities and financing of these expert groups should be made more explicit. In addition, there should also be a clearer relationship between expert group meetings and the contribution of the work programme to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

7. It was further noted that the work programme proposed seven reports for the Commission for Social Development in 1997 and six reports for the General Assembly (one for 1996 and five for 1997). In addition, six non-recurrent publications and five newsletters were also proposed outputs. Within the framework of the mandates currently provided by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, a regrouping of reports and publications should be considered.

8. The Commission considered the work programme, while at the same time studying the role of the Commission in the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development. Should the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly take decisions that changed the frequency of the sessions of the Commission, as well as other aspects of its functioning, the work programme of the Division for Social Policy and Development would have to be revised accordingly.

9. Some members of the Commission made comments on the question of the resources required for the implementation of the proposed work programme. The Secretariat informed the Commission that, in accordance with current budgetary practices, the possible financial implications of the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development would be considered by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

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**UNITED NATIONS** **E**

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.5/1995/L.8
19 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-fourth session
10-20 April 1995
Agenda item 5

PRIORITY SUBJECT: WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole for the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development,

Having considered its priority subject, the World Summit for Social Development, particularly the arrangements for the implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 1/

Recognizing that the full implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration and of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action will contribute to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all,

Decides to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the views and considerations annexed hereto.

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1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Annex

VIEWS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The implementation of the commitments and policy recommendations of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development involves Governments, the international community and all actors of civil society. Regional and international organizations have a responsibility to contribute to the implementation and follow-up in order to provide support to Governments, at both the national and international levels.

2. The General Assembly is the principal policy-making organ entrusted with providing the general orientation and decisions for action in the implementation and follow-up of the agreements of the World Summit for Social Development. The Economic and Social Council is entrusted with providing overall system-wide coordination of the implementation of those agreements and should make recommendations in that regard in view of the need for improved efficiency and effectiveness within the United Nations system in addressing social development issues. In that context, the Commission for Social Development, as a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in the follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. This role should be compatible with the functions and contributions of other relevant bodies, organs and organizations of the United Nations system.

3. In order to be able to carry out its responsibilities regarding the implementation and follow-up of the agreements of the Summit, the Commission for Social Development should be in a position to increase the added value of its contributions to international cooperation for social development. To this end:

(a) The Economic and Social Council should review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of an expansion of its membership and the annualization of its meetings, as well as of its reporting system and the effectiveness of its methods of work, with a view to enhancing its contribution to the follow-up of the Summit;

(b) The mandate of the Commission should be adapted in order to ensure an integrated approach to social development, taking into account the relationship between social and economic development as defined by the recommendations adopted by the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) The Commission should establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society in the field of social development. The Commission should also review and update its methods of work in order to fulfil its mandate efficiently;

(d) The Commission should contribute to the review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(e) The Commission, on the basis of the review of its agenda, should develop a work programme for considering the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

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